

REMARKS

Applicants have received the Office Action dated February 21, 2006. In this Office Action, the examiner allowed claims 1-9, rejected claims 10, 17, 18, and 23, and objected to claims 11-16 and 19-22. Claims 1-23 were pending in this application. By this response, Claims 10 and 18 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 13 and 21, respectively and will be discussed below. As the limitations of Claims 13 and 21 have been incorporated into Claims 10 and 18, Claims 13 and 21 have been cancelled. Claim 14 has been amended to be dependent on currently amended Claim 10. Thus, Claims 1-12, 14-20, and 22-23 are now pending.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The examiner rejected claims 10, 17, 18, and 23 as anticipated by U.S. Patent Application U.S. 2003/0174070 ("Garrod").

Independent Claim 10 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 13. The examiner previously indicated Claim 13 was allowable as an independent claim; amended Claim 10 should be allowable as well. Dependent Claim 17 now should also be allowable as it is dependent on Claim 10. For at least these reasons, independent claim 10, and dependent claims 11, 12, and 14-17, are all allowable over the cited art.

Independent Claim 18 has similarly been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claim 21. The examiner has previously indicated that Claim 21 would be allowable as an independent claim; amended Claim 18 should now be allowable as well. Dependent Claim 23 should now also be allowable as it is dependent on Claim 18. For at least these reasons, independent claim 18 and dependent claims 19, 20, 22, and 23, are all allowable over the cited art.

Conclusion

In the course of the foregoing discussions, applicant may have at times referred to claim elements in shorthand fashion, or may have focused on a particular claim element. This discussion should not be interpreted to mean that the other elements can be ignored or dismissed. The claims must be viewed as a whole, and each element of the claims must be considered when

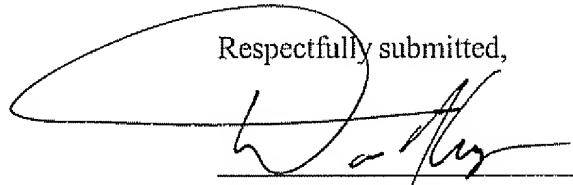
Appl. No. 10/612,692

Amdt. dated May 18, 2006

Response to Office action of February 21, 2006

determining the patentability of the claims. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. It is believed that no extensions of time or fees are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to Conley Rose, P.C. Deposit Account No. 03-2769.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Krueger', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive.

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